Amendments to Claims

1. (Original) A thermoplastic polyamide composition having enhanced surface adhesion properties, comprising: the reaction product of a silane coupling compound with a blend of a polyamide with at least one other thermoplastic or elastomeric polymer as toughener.

2. (Currently Amended) A composition ~~The polyamide composition of Claim 1 wherein the composition comprises~~ comprising:

(a) from about 5 to about 30 weight percent of a free-flowing toughener comprising from about 20 weight percent to about 95 weight percent polyvinyl butyral;

(b) ~~complimentally,~~ 95 to 25 weight percent polyamide that is melt processible below about 320°C and has a number average molecular weight of at least 5,000;

(c) a silane coupling ~~agent~~ compound; and

(d) optionally, filler in an amount of up to about 45 weight percent.

3. (Currently Amended) The composition of Claim 2 wherein the toughener comprises one or more polymers having anhydride functionality ~~and~~ or one or more polymers having carboxylic acid functionality.

4. (Original) The composition of Claim 2 wherein the toughener further comprises a non-reactive polymer selected from the group consisting of polyethylene, polypropylene, polyvinylchloride, nylon, olefinic copolymers, and mixtures thereof.

5. (Currently Amended) The composition of Claim 3 wherein the composition comprises ~~a~~ the filler in an amount of from about 1 wt% to about 45 wt%, based on the total weight of the composition.

6. (Currently Amended) The composition of Claim 5 wherein the filler is glass filler ~~is present in amount of from about 1 wt% to about 45 wt%~~.

7. (Currently Amended) The composition of Claim 1 wherein the silane coupling ~~agent~~ compound is an aminosilane compound and is included in an amount of from about 0.1 to about 1 wt%.

8. (Original) The composition of Claim 7 wherein the polyamide is selected from the group consisting of: Nylon 6; Nylon 66; Nylon 69; Nylon 610; and Nylon 612; Nylon 11; Nylon 12; Nylon 12, 12; and copolymers of epsilon-caprolactam with hexamethylenediamine and adipic acid.

9. (Original) An article prepared from the composition of Claim 1.

10. (Currently Amended) ~~The article of Claim 9 wherein the article is a~~ A laminate formed from at least one ~~PVB~~ polyvinyl butyral sheet and at least one adjacent polyamide sheet obtained from the composition of Claim 1, wherein the compressive shear strength of the laminate is at least 950.

11. (Currently Amended) ~~The laminate of Claim 10 wherein the~~ A laminate ~~comprises~~ comprising a polyamide/polymer/polyamide laminate structure, wherein the polymer is selected from the group consisting of ~~PVB~~ polyvinyl butyral, polyurethane, polyvinylchloride, polycarbonate, polyacrylate, or other polyamides and the polyamide is a thermoplastic polyamide composition as claimed in claim 1.

12. (Original) The laminate of Claim 11 wherein the laminate has sound damping properties.

13. (Currently Amended) An article comprising ~~a~~ the laminate of Claim 12.

14. (Currently Amended) The article of Claim 10 wherein the article is: a boat; a car; a train; an airplane; a roof; a wall; a building; or a tool.

15. (Original) The article of Claim 9 wherein the article is a laminate comprising at least one layer of a thermoplastic elastomer laminated to the polyamide composition.

16. (Original) The article of Claim 15 wherein the article is a button or switch on: electronic equipment or an electronic device, a stereo, a compact disc player, a telephone, a television, a remote control, a computer, a keypad, or a touch-screen.

17. (Currently Amended) A laminate article comprising a laminate structure of polyamide/~~PVB~~ polyvinyl butyral /polyamide wherein the polyamide is a thermoplastic polyamide composition ~~comprising: (a) from about 5 to about 30 weight percent of a free-flowing toughener comprising from about 20 weight percent to about 95 weight percent polyvinyl butyral; (b) complimentally, 95 to 25 weight percent polyamide that is melt processible below about 320°C and a number average molecular weight of at least 5,000; (c) optionally a coupling agent in an amount of up to about 1 wt%; and (d) optionally, a filler in an amount of up to about 45 weight percent~~ prepared from the composition of claim 2.

18. (Currently Amended) An article comprising ~~a~~ the laminate of Claim 17.

19. (Currently Amended) The article of Claim 18 wherein the article is: a boat; a car; a train; an airplane; a roof; a wall; a building; a wall; a ceiling; a floor; a tool; or an appliance.

20. (Original) The article of Claim 9 wherein the article is formed by an injection molding or a press molding process.

21. (Currently Amended) A process for increasing the adhesion of a thermoplastic polyamide composition comprising ~~the step of including a silane coupling agent~~ (a) providing a silane coupling compound, (b) providing as a polyamide composition a free-flowing pelletized blend of a polyamide with at least one other thermoplastic or elastomeric polymer as toughener, and (c) reacting the silane coupling compound with the blend.

22. (Currently Amended) The process of Claim 21 wherein the coupling ~~agent~~ compound is applied to the surface of the polyamide composition.

23. (Currently Amended) The process of Claim 22 wherein the coupling ~~agent~~ compound is applied as an aqueous solution at a pH of less than 7.

24. (New) The composition of Claim 2 wherein the toughener comprises a polyolefin having anhydride functionality.

25. (New) The composition of Claim 1 wherein the silane coupling compound is selected from the group consisting of: gamma-aminopropyltrimethoxysilane; gamma-aminopropyltriethoxysilane; N-2- aminopropyltrialkoxysilane; or N-(2-aminoethyl)-3-aminopropylmethyldialkoxysilane.

26. (New) The composition of Claim 24 wherein the silane coupling compound is selected from the group consisting of: gamma-aminopropyltrimethoxysilane; gamma-aminopropyltriethoxysilane; N-2- aminopropyltrialkoxysilane; or N-(2-aminoethyl)-3-aminopropylmethyldialkoxysilane and wherein the silane coupling compound is present in an amount of about 0.1 to about 3 wt%.

27. (New) The composition of Claim 5 wherein the filler is selected from the group consisting of calcined clay, metal carbonates, titanium dioxide, wollastonite, glass, or talc.

28. (New) The composition of claim 2 wherein the polyvinyl butyral is plasticized polyvinyl butyral.

29. (New) The composition of claim 28 wherein the free-flowing toughener comprises pellets prepared from (a) the polyvinyl butyral, (b) a polyolefin having anhydride functionality, (c) a non-reactive polymer selected from the group consisting of polyethylene, polypropylene, and ethylene/n-butyl, and (d) an antioxidant.

30. (New) The composition of claim 2 prepared by the process of providing an aqueous solution comprising the silane coupling compound and coating the aqueous solution on the surface of the polyamide composition.

31. (New) The composition of claim 30 wherein the silane coupling compound is coated as an aqueous solution at a pH of less than 7.

32. (New) The composition of claim 2 which is in the form of a blend containing the silane coupling compound in the bulk of the composition.

33. (New) The composition of claim 1 wherein the other thermoplastic or elastomeric polymer comprises plasticized polyvinyl butyral.

34. (New) A laminate article comprising a laminate structure of polyamide/polyvinyl butyral /polyamide wherein the polyamide is the thermoplastic polyamide composition of claim 1.

35. (New) The polyamide composition of Claim 1 wherein the composition is prepared from a composition comprising:

(a) from about 5 to about 30 weight percent of the at least one other thermoplastic or elastomeric polymer, wherein the at least one other thermoplastic or elastomeric polymer is a free-flowing toughener comprising from about 20 weight percent to about 95 weight percent polyvinyl butyral;

(b) 95 to 25 weight percent of the polyamide, wherein the polyamide is melt processible below about 320°C and has a number average molecular weight of at least 5,000;

(c) the silane coupling compound; and

(d) optionally, filler in an amount of up to about 45 weight percent.